

We claim:

1. In a WLAN having a first WLAN device and at least a second WLAN device, each of the first and at least second WLAN device, respectively, capable of communicating WLAN data, an improvement of apparatus for selectably connecting the first WLAN device and the second
5 WLAN device, said apparatus comprising:
 - a variable attenuator having a first port connectable to the first WLAN device and a second port connectable to the second WLAN device, a first WLAN device-generated signal selectably applied to the first port when the first port is connected to the first WLAN device, said variable
10 attenuator for attenuating the first WLAN device-generated signal at a selected attenuation level and for providing an attenuated signal at the second port thereof.
2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said variable attenuator comprises a resistive step attenuator having a plurality of resistive elements, each of the resistive elements of the plurality of resistive elements of different resistive values, wherein a selected at least one resistive element is selected to
5 be coupled to the first port, thereby to attenuate first WLAN device-generated signal at the selected attenuation level, the selected attenuation level responsive to the resistive value of the selected at least one resistive element.
3. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a first WLAN-device calibrator element, located at the first WLAN device, said first WLAN-device calibrator element for causing the first WLAN device to generate at the first WLAN device-generated signal.
4. The apparatus of claim 3 wherein the first WLAN device comprises a first portable computer station having a first WLAN PCCARD selectably operable in a broadcast transmit mode, and wherein said first

002210-42655500

Sub
A 1

WLAN-device calibrator element causes the first WLAN PCCARD to operate
5 in the broadcast mode to generate the first WLAN device-generated signal.

5. The apparatus of claim 4 further comprising a second WLAN-device calibrator element located at the second WLAN device, said second WLAN-device calibrator element for controlling operation of said variable attenuator to select the selected attenuation level of said variable attenuator.

6. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein said second WLAN-device calibrator element is further for measuring values of the attenuated signal formed by said variable attenuator and applied to the second WLAN device when the second WLAN device is connected to the second port of said
5 variable attenuator.

7. The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the values of the attenuated signal measured by said second WLAN-device calibrator element comprise RSSI (Received Signal Strength Indication) values.

8. The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the second WLAN device comprises a second portable computer station having a second WLAN PCCARD, and wherein said second WLAN-device calibrator element is further for forming a connection function responsive to measured values of the
5 attenuated signal formed by said variable attenuator at the selected attenuation level.

9. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said second WLAN-device calibrator element selects the selected attenuator level of said variable attenuator to be of successively-different levels, measures the attenuated signal formed at the second port attenuated at the successively-different
5 levels, and forms the connective function responsive thereto.

10. The apparatus of claim 2 further comprising a test controller coupled to said variable attenuator and to the first WLAN device, said test controller for selecting the selected attenuation level of said variable

002210-12655500

attenuator and for selecting parameters of the first WLAN device-generated
 5 signal, the first WLAN device forming a device under test and the second
 WLAN device forming a control-device.

11. The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the second WLAN device is
 connected to the second port of said variable attenuator and wherein the
 second WLAN device measures values of the attenuated signal formed by said
 variable attenuator.

12. The apparatus of claim 11 wherein said test controller further is
 coupled to the second WLAN device, wherein the second WLAN device
 forwards measured values of the attenuated signal to said test controller.

13. The apparatus of claim 12 wherein said test controller is further
 operable, responsive to forwarding of the measured values thereto by the
 second WLAN device, to analyze operation of the first WLAN device.

14. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the parameters of the first
 WLAN device-generated signal selected by said test controller comprise a
 desired transmit power level, a transmission frequency, and a data rate.

15. The apparatus of claim 2 further comprising a test controller
 coupled to said variable attenuator, to the first WLAN device, and to the
 second WLAN device, said test controller for selecting the selected
 attenuation level of said variable attenuator and for selecting parameters of the
 5 first WLAN device-generated signal, the first WLAN device forming a control
 device and the second WLAN device forming a device under test.

16. In a method for communicating in a WLAN (Wireless Local
 Area Network) having a first WLAN device and at least a second WLAN
 device, each of the first and at least second WLAN devices, respectively,
 capable of communicating WLAN data, an improvement of a method for
 5 calibrating the second WLAN device to the first WLAN device, said method
 comprising:

calibrating the second WLAN device to the first WLAN responsive to values of the first WLAN device-generated signal provided during said operation of providing.

measuring performance of a selected one of the first WLAN device and the second WLAN device responsive to values of the first WLAN device-generated signal subsequent to delivery to the second WLAN device.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein the first WLAN device forms a device under test, wherein the second WLAN device forms a control device of

known receive characteristics, and wherein said operation of measuring performance measures transmit performance of the first WLAN device.

19. The method of claim 17 wherein the first WLAN device forms a control device of known transmit characteristics, wherein the second WLAN device forms a device under test and wherein said operation of measuring performance measures receive performance of the second WLAN device.

20. The method of claim 17 wherein said operation of selectably attenuating is performed by a variable attenuator.

002210-12085960